

Board of Education Meeting

December 11, 2023

6:30 PM, at Polk County High School Media Center

Members Present: Chairman Ashworth, Vice-Chairman Mr. Covil, Ms. Page, Ms. Allen, Mr. Parsons, Ms. Gibbs, Ms. Jackson

Members Absent: None

Others: Superintendent Aaron Greene, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Jan Crump, Director of Human Resources Todd Murphy, Director of Operations Brandon Schweitzer, Finance Officer Debbie Lovelace and Attorney Phillip Feagan

Call to Order and Welcome

Mr. Ashworth called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 PM and welcomed all in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Recognition of the 2023 Christmas Card Artists

Chairman Ashworth recognized the five student Christmas card artists whose artwork was chosen for the 2023 Polk County Schools' Christmas cards. They included: Kairo Holbert, Jeri Allen, Joseph Saraceno, Michelle Hernandez-Gonzalez, and Reggie Owens. Mr. Ashworth presented each artist with a Christmas ornament gift and a box of their own Christmas cards. Superintendent Greene thanked Mr. Thomas, the students, and their families for attending the meeting and for the contribution of their artwork.

PCHS Student Presentation

The Board recognized Polk County High School volleyball coach Molly Hill. Coach Hill offered comments to the Board regarding the State Champion Volleyball Team. She stressed how hard each team member worked to get to where they are. She not only spoke about the team members not only as athletes, but as students as well. Several of the team members spoke about the state championship experience, their academic experience, and their overall appreciation of the program and opportunity. The Board applauded the students for their work and thanked them for coming to present.

Superintendent Greene requested the Board take a brief recess to see the new *Anatomage* table received via grant funding to serve health sciences classrooms. Ms. Allen made a motion to take a brief recess and it was seconded by Mr. Parsons. The motion passed 7-0 and the Board took a brief recess.

After the recess Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to return to open session. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to return to open sessions and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. The motion passed 7-0 and the Board returned to open session.

Approval of November 13, 2023 Board Minutes (Action)

Chairman Ashworth called the Board's attention to a copy of the November 13, 2023 Board Minutes. Mr. Ashworth asked if there were any additions or corrections and there were none. Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to approve both sets of minutes. Ms. Allen made the motion to approve both sets of minutes as presented. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Annual Election of Board Chairman & Vice-Chair (Action)

Chairman Ashworth turned the gavel over to Superintendent Greene for the annual election of the Board Chairman. Mr. Greene asked for nominations. Mr. Covil made a recommendation to re-elect Mr. Ashworth as the

Board Chairman. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The motion carried 7-0. Ms. Ashworth made a motion to re-elect Mr. Covil as the Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded by Mr. Parsons. The motion carried 7-0. Superintendent Greene turned the meeting back over to Chairman Ashworth.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

Student Information System Transition - Brandon Schweitzer (Information)

Director of Operations Dr. Brandon Schweitzer gave a brief summary of the upcoming NC Student Information System (SIS) transition. PowerSchool lost the bid NC SIS to Infinite Campus. Polk County Schools has submitted a request to be in the state's phase one implementation pilot. If accepted, effective July 1, 2024 the District will begin the cycle of changing all student information over to Infinite Campus. The current school year will be completed with PowerSchool. Dr. Schweitzer presented three different options of the transition. Dr. Schweitzer provided details of Infinite Campus and how it will work. Dr. Schweitzer stated that this will come back to the Board with more information as it the transition progresses.

EC Extension Experience - Toni Haley (Information)

Ms. Toni Haley presented to the Board regarding a recent EC Extension Experience. All self-contained students were invited to attend a "sensory sensitive" performance of the Nutcracker Ballet in Spartanburg, SC. About 50 people, students and adults went on the trip. They also went to Pizza Inn for a pizza buffet. Ms. Haley shared a photo presentation of the trip. Ms. Haley shared that her staff came together to make this happen. The Board and Superintendent Greene shared their appreciation to Ms. Haley and her staff for all of their work to make this happen. Ms. Haley offered her appreciation of Ms. Cindy Riddle for the information regarding this experience.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

Budget Amendment - Debbie Lovelace (Action)

Debbie Lovelace reviewed the budget amendment included with the agenda. Chairman Ashworth asked for a motion that the budget amendment be approved as submitted. Ms. Jackson made the motion, which Mr. Covil seconded. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments and there were none. The motion was approved 7-0.

Policy Update (First Reading) – Brandon Schweitzer (Action)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer gave remarks to the Board regarding the first reading of Policies 1310/4002 Parental Involvement, 3210 Parental Inspection of and Objection to Instructional Materials, 3540 Comprehensive Health Education Program, 4335 Criminal Behavior, 4720 Surveys of Students, 6120 Student Health Services, and 7300 Staff Responsibilities. Dr. Schweitzer stated that policies were reviewed and discussed during a policy subcommittee meeting and the committee endorses the policies for approval. Attorney Feagan asked about K-4 and K-5 in one of the policies. Dr. Schweitzer stated that one of the recommendations of the subcommittee was to change the legislation regarding the restriction of the ban on instruction related to gender and/or sexuality. The policy recommended by legislation bans instruction related to gender and/or sexuality in grades K-4. The Subcommittee recommends increasing the restriction to K-4 to extend it through elementary school. Attorney Feagan stated his concern is the expansion of possible parental concern. Ms. Jackson asked if the Board could get the comparison of old verses new policy with the strikeout and changes noted so that the changes are easily noted. Dr. Schweitzer stated that he would get that to the Board. Mr. Parsons asked regarding health education verses health services provided by schools. Superintendent Greene stated that there was clarification regarding health services and treatment of students within the policy. Chairman Ashworth entertained a motion to approve the aforementioned policies on first reading. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the policies as presented on first reading and it was seconded by Mr. Covil. Policies 1310/4002 Parental Involvement, 3210 Parental Inspection of and Objection to Instructional Materials, 3540 Comprehensive Health Education Program, 4335 Criminal Behavior, 4720 Surveys of Students, 6120 Student Health Services, and 7300 Staff Responsibilities were approved on first reading by a vote of 7-0.

Red Rover Substitute System - Todd Murphy (Information)

The Director of Human Resources, Todd Murphy, gave a brief summary to the Board about the Red Rover Substitute System. Mr. Murphy explained in detail how the substitute system will work. He explained that this system is a substitute management system, and will create more subs but create a more streamlined process. Mr. Covil asked how someone will know if a sub responds during the night. Mr. Murphy explained how the program sends out notifications when the absence is created and the notifications go out to subs on the lists. Mr. Parsons asked if a teacher could add a sub specifically when creating an absence. Mr. Murphy stated yes and explained the process. He also added that administrators receive a report each morning of absences created and subs found for each day. Ms. Jackson asked what the cost of the system will be. Mr. Murphy stated that it is about \$5300 a year. The Board offered their appreciation for Mr. Murphy and his work on this system.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Construction Update – Brandon Schweitzer (Information)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer provided a construction update to the Board. The Forbes Preschool addition is progressing well. Looking from the outside it may not look like much is happening, but Dr. Schweitzer confirmed there is a lot happening on the inside. The roof has been delivered and electrical is in process. There is a delay in receiving the window seals. The estimated completion date is the end of February which aligns with the playground construction. Overall, the project is on track in regard to time and budget.

The security fencing at Polk Central has been finalized and put in place.

The district has engaged with an engineer to help plan for the paving of the back portion of campus at PCHS. There are several portions of the remaining work that will require engineering for drainage, extension of road paving, and new parking sections.

Teacher Supplement - Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene revisited the 2023-2024 local Teacher Supplement plan. Mr. Greene shared a modified teacher supplement scale reflecting necessary changes to the scale that comply with new guidance received from NC DPI regarding amount limits on how the supplements are awarded. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve the presented modified supplement scale and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The presented modified supplement scale was approved 7-0.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene explained the call to cancel school due to the power outage at Saluda elementary school.

The Board directed administration to develop a calendar that would allow the finishing of exams in the first semester of coursework before the Christmas Holiday in 2024-2025 and not open it up to the traditional committee process.

V. INFORMATION

November Head Start Policy Council Minutes Presented to the Board

November Pre-School Monthly Report Presented to the Board

Pre-K Financial Report Presented to the Board

Monthly Financial Report Presented to the Board

Month to Date Credit Card Report Presented to the Board

Christmas Break for Students: December 18, 2023 - January 1, 2024 - students return to school on January 2, 2024

OPTIONAL BOARD TRAINING

2023/2024 NCSBA Video Library

Core Training - NCSBA Office, Raleigh - December 14-15

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no need to amend the time limit for Public Input. One Polk County resident attended the meeting and offered public input to the Board. A verbatim account of public input and all open meeting Board discussion is available via digital audio recording.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 7:43 PM Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel, and an attorney client matter. Ms. Gibbs made the motion to go into closed session and it was seconded by Ms. Parsons. The motion carried 7-0.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Resumption of Regular Session: With all discussion concluded in closed session, Mr. Ashworth called for a motion to return to open session. At 8:25 pm, Ms. Jackson made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Ashworth called the Board’s attention to those matters on the personnel agenda that required Board approval. Mr. Ashworth asked the Board’s pleasure in regard to a motion. Mr. Jackson made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer. Ms. Gibbs seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Information:

Name	Position	School	
Matthew Roberts	History Teacher	PCEC	Retiring
Suzanne Bice	EC Teacher	PCMS	Retiring
Johnna Searcy	Health Sciences Teacher	PCHS	Resigning
Melanie Aguirre	Pre K Teachers Aide	Polk Central	Resigning
Elisabeth Blanton	Afterschool Office Assistant/Afterschool Site Director	CO/PCHS	Resigning

Action:

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Emily Pereira	Health Sciences Teacher	PCHS	Tryon	Appalachian State University	Nurse	2
Miranda Hoots	Receptionist	Tryon Elementary	Columbus	N/A	N/A	Years
Ramona Adkins	Substitute Teacher	Tryon Elementary	Campobello, SC	N/A	N/A	Years

Amberley Skipton	EC Teacher	TBD	Rutherfordton	Milligan College	Will Apply	Years
Stephanie Robbins	EC Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver	PCMS	Rutherfordton	N/A	N/A	0
Corey Lowery	Substitute Teacher	PCEC	Bostic	UNC Charlotte	History	Years

There was an attorney client matter discussed amongst the Board.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Ashworth declared the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Mr. Ashworth, Board Chair

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary

AG/TO